SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1879.

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A Long-Whispered Story made Public

Total for the week ...

One of JOHN KELLY'S organs vesterday made public a story which has, for some time, been privately circulated among the enemies of Mr. TILDEN and listened to by his friends. The whole of this matter is copied in another part of this paper.

The points of this story are, that after the election in 1876 a person who is called Mr. JONES came from South Carolina to New York bearing the proposition that the Returning Board of that State should give the vote of the State to Mr. TILDEN on the payment of \$30,000 cash. When Mr. Jones made this offer to Mr. TILDEN, he flatly refused it, saying that the votes of Florida and Louisiana were already secured, and he did not need those of South Carolina. Mr. Jones thereupon went away, but was soon recalled by Mr. TILDEN, who requested him to confer with a gentleman who is described as Mr. Brown. Mr. Jones saw Mr. Brown. and that gentleman handed him a package, saying that he had been directed to give it to him, but knew nothing further about it This package Mr. Jones sent at once and unopened to Charleston by an unnamed gentleman who had come thence with him, telling him that it contained \$30,000 to secure from the Returning Board a return favorable to the TILDEN electors. The messenger sailed with this package, but the ship had scarcely got away when Mr. Jones was sent for by Mr. TILDEN, who said he must tele graph at once to Charleston that the package must not be opened, and that it must be immediately restored to Mr. Brown in New York. This Mr. Jones did, recalling the messenger and handing the unopened package to Mr. Brown, who is said to have given a receipt for it. There the affair ended, and the electoral vote of the State was returned for HAYES.

This is the whole essence of the story told by Mr. KELLY's organ, and it would have little importance but for the fact that a narrative similar in its nature has been privately whispered about with the names of responsible gentlemen as witnesses or parties to the transaction.

Should Mr. TILDEN think proper to meet this story with any denial or explanation, his statement would be received with interest by the public. Meanwhile it may be remarked that if this story should be confirmed by unanswerable proofs, the confirmation would be as injurious to the other persons concerned as to Mr. TILDEN.

Limit and Explain Your Hurrahs for Gen. Grant.

We have already expressed our cordial approbation of Democrats as well as Republicans giving to Gen. GRANT, as a military chieftain, a hearty greeting. As we have previously observed, in some of the Western cities the Democrats have been very conspicuous in the GRANT receptions. And they have not been unknown men, but leading party men in the Democratic organization.

Now what effect on GRANT's prospects will this cooperation of the Democrats at his receptions produce? It swells the voice of acclaim in his favor. It will not unlikely contribute to his strength in the Republican National Convention.

Will it help to elect him?

We have never thought that anything could overcome the antipathy of the American people to a third term. And yet we should much prefer not to see any man so much as nominated by a great party for a We therefore think it important that

whenever and wherever Democrats officiate at the public receptions of Gen. GRANT they should make it distinctly understood that they simply do honor to his military achievements, and not to his eight years of rotten civil administration or his dangerous ambition for a third term-just as CHARLES D'CONOR, a few years ago, when joining in E. DELAFIELD SMITH'S public dinner to WILLIAM M. EVARTS, emphatically made it known that he was not complimenting Mr Evants for anything he had done as Attorney-General of the United States.

Methodist brethren have sometimes been severely criticised for not getting their fervent "Amens" in at the right place. Demograts who interrupt the Republican recep tions of Gen. GRANT with Amens must be very careful to interject them at the right places especially immediately after all anathemas against corruption, such as Rebublican orators are apt at employing.

The Colossal Wheat Farms of the Northwest.

We copy from the Atlantic Monthly striking paper by a writer who has recently visited some of the giant wheat farms of Bouthwestern Minnesota. The account which he gives of the development in the Northwest of a system of agriculture until late years almost unknown to America, is startling when considered with reference to the possibilities of the future. The rapid increase in number of these mammoth plantations of ten, twenty, forty, and fifty thousand acres, operated by capitalists in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and in Europe, is a very significant fact, and a fact which cannot be viewed without serious

alarm, when its significance is understood. It is not unlikely that the yield and profits of the Northwestern wheat fields are somewhat exaggerated by those interested in the sale of land and the settlement of the country. Figures furnished by the agents and commissioners of railroad companies having lands to dispose of do not pass without question. The estimates here, for instance, are based on an average yield of twenty or twenty-two bushels to the acre; and the cost of production is put at \$8.69 per acre The latter figure coincides very nearly with the estimate made a few weeks ago by an intelligent correspondent of THE SUN in Kansas. His object was to point out the vast overproduction of wheat that would result if the present mania for planting that ocreal to the exclusion of others were not checked. According to his testimony, twenty or twenty-two bushels to the acre would seem to be a very liberal estimate

for an average crop. It is not, however, in the direction of overproduction that the real danger lies. That is a matter that will regulate itself, as surely as the laws of demand and supply operate. But this new system of agriculture on a large scale, this combination of unlimited capital, labor-saving machinery, and cheap labor, means starvation to the small farmer and destruction to the farming interest as at present constituted. The ob-

servations of the writer in the Atlantic show that, while the great farms of the capitalist are earning from twenty to fifty-five per cent. year on the investment, the small farmers who are brought into competition with them are, in most cases, hopelessly in debt, and falling further behindhand with the harvesting of every crop.

That is the natural and inevitable result of the extension of the new system. The small farm will be swallowed up by mortgages; the small farmer will be crushed out. He has a family to support, children to rear and educate, bis share of the burdens of the commu nity to bear. The great farms are more money-making machines. The capitalists who control them have no stake in the soil save its annual yield of grain. Their enterprises support no community, no churches no schools, no families. From the statement made by the Atlantic writer as to the wages of the hands employed on these colossal plantations, some of them thrice the size of Manhattan Island, we compute that the average daily receipt of the employee who is so fortunate as to obtain work the year round is between sixty and seventy cents, while only five or ten out of every two hundred and fifty have work the year round. There is no basis here for the development of the community.

If the well-being of this country largely rests upon the prosperity of the independent agriculturist, to what end will this new order of things lead? Up to the present time the farming interest has been less affected, directly, than any other by the evils that accompany the consolidation of wealth. The farmer may have been oppressed, but his field has not been invaded.

This is a new and important feature of a problem that may have a large place in politics during the next few years.

How the Austrians are Treating Bosnia In the eyes of shrewd observers, the most decisive and pregnant act of the Berlin Congress was the transfer of Bosnia and the Herzegovina to the Hapsburg empire. Those provinces have now been for some time in the hands of their new masters, and the treatment of the population has been watched with keen interest by all parties interested in the Turkish problem. On the degree of judgment and dexterity shown by Austria in grappling with the difficulties of the Bosnian situation, will largely depend its future influence and aggrandizement in the Balkan peninsula.

There were mistakes in the military conduct of the occupation, mistakes which gravely augmented the total cost of the movement, now set down at \$60,000,000. It was unlucky, too, that the credit of its successful issue should have been engrossed by a Slav General, Philippovich, a fact which unduly raised the expectations of the orthodox rayahs, and provoked the apprehensions of the Mohammedan element From the moment, however, that the conquest was concluded, every effort seems to have been made to demonstrate the Impartial policy of the new Government. The supreme civil and military authority was conferred, not upon the Slav PHILIPPOVICH. but upon the Duke of Würtemberg, a Protestant and a German, who has constantly maintained a strictly equitable and nonsectarian attitude. The curious state of feeling in the three leading sections of the people bears testimony to the fairness and firmness of his official conduct. The Bosnian Begs, who showed themselves at first so intractable, had gradually received more and more consideration, and they are beginning to comprehend that if they had not the Austrians over them they would have the Servians or Montenegrins, which would prove a much greater calamity. So far, the feudal relations between them and the peasantry have not been disturbed, although a project for their readjustment has been cautiously matured, and will soon be put in execution. Meanwhile the Christians belonging to the Greek Church are naturally dissatisfied, seeing that the change of masters was supposed to mean the immediate spoliation of the Begs. The townfolk find another grievance in the increased cost of living caused by the occupation; but the peasants are better pleased with the new state of things, as they gain largely by the expenditure of the army for provisions and forage. The Catholics, however, are the most disappointed, because they looked forward to exceptional privileges upon the advent of a Catholic Gov-

ernment, and they are disgusted to see

the Austrians treating their co-religionists

with no more favor than they show to the

orthodox Christians and to the Turks. Of

course, the existence of such sentiments is

really a compliment to the temper and

sagacity of the Austrian administration. Notwithstanding the expense entailed by the necessity of maintaining for the present a large military establishment, the new comers have been able to effect some fiscal retrenchments, as well as to introduce some momentous social reforms. They have abolished the tax imposed on the Christian population as a substitute for military service, although it yielded the Turkish Government \$250,000 a year, or one-eighth of the whole revenue. The other taxes are collected with more rigor, probably, than under the Turkish régime, where a corrupt and ill-paid functionary could always be bribed. So far, the old system of levying tithes in kind has usually been pursued though in some places their money value has been fixed by local tribunals, and a plan is being studied for replacing this offensive impost by a tax upon each peasant, rated according to his property in cattle. Here we may refer to the principle on which it is proposed to solve the difficulty presented by the feudal relation of the Christian peasantry to the Moslem proprietors. In law, the Beg owns the land, and the rayah or colon who occupies it pays his landlord the so-called trettina, or third part of the gross produce. This is the proportion voluntarily agreed to by both parties in most Oriental countries, but the Austrians fully recognize the necessity of making the Christian peasant a proprietor. They do not propose, however, to sacrifice the land-owning class, but to enforce a species of compromise, like that carried out in Russia and in Roumania. It is thought the system practised in the latter country would be most applicable to Bosnia. Under this arrangement, the peasant will receive gratis so much land as he requires to provide his family with the necessaries of life, the Government undertaking to indemnify the proprietor in bonds. In this way the Mohammedan Beg will be deprived of only about a fourth of his arable territory, while the peasant, being able

to cultivate a larger area than his own

holding, will be glad to lease extra plots?

from the proprietor. In general, it may be

said that the Austrian authorities are fol-

lowing the example of England and France

in dealing with their Moslem subjects, and

that the scrupulous justice secured to

Mohammedans in Bosnia, as compared with

their oppression in Bulgaria and Roumelia.

cannot fail to have great weight in shaping

the opinions and sympathies of the Euro-

pean provinces still controlled by the Porte.

We may add that Austria is already employing a civilizing expedient which had the happiest results in Transylvania during the Middle Ages. We refer to the planting of German colonies at various points of the conquered territory, a beginning having been made by the settlement near Derwent of a considerable body of hard-working lawabiding yeomen from Würtemberg.

Although the pacification of the country is of recent date, it appears that the Austrians have already constructed a narrow gauge railway from Brod to Zenica, a distance of 120 miles, and have thoroughly macadamized and equipped with bridges a carriage road 180 miles in length, from Brod to Serajevo. Other carriage roads are building, and the railway is to be rapidly pushed forward to the capital of the province, and thence to Novi-Bazar. The whole civil administration has been reformed, and, for the first time in four centuries, the peo ple of these provinces are protected by an honest judiciary and an efficient police. In each of the six sandjaks, or districts, which, under the Turks were administered by Pashas, the Austrians have established a court of justice, consisting of five Austrian Judges, assisted by a native familiar with the Mohammedan civil law. On the other hand, a criminal code, based on the Austrian, has been introduced, for the obvious reason that Turkish penal laws and forms of criminal procedure abounded in unjust discriminations against the Christians. Besides the garrisons which to some extent discharge a police function, a strong body of gendarmerie has been organized, which, for the first time in the memory of the inhabitants, insures a reasonable degree of safety to the traveller in Bosnia. These men are chosen from noncommissioned officers of some education and good character, and they receive what is thought high pay in the Austrian service viz., \$20 a month. Their present number is about two thousand, and, with the incorporation of a few well affected natives, this force is expected to suffice to keep order in the open country, though important strategic points will, for some time, be occu-

pied by regular troops. If we except the so-called sandjak of Herzegovina, the country confided to Austria is certainly a very fine one. Well wooded and fertile to the very crests of the hills, it is equally adapted to tillage and to pasturage, and its mineral wealth in coal and iron is known to be very great. Nothing has been wanting to the development of ts natural resources but the framing and administering of wise and impartial laws. It is satisfactory to find that Austria has made a good beginning in this direction, and that the down-trodden populations of the Balkan peninsula can look henceforward to at least one Government in their corner of the world which takes no account of race or caste, or of religion, but holds all its subects equal before the law.

The Decline of Church Going.

We find in the Journal of Commerce a letter from that always interesting and always instructive writer, Mr. WILLIAM C. PRIME, giving some rather startling accounts of the decline of religion in New England. It is the habit of Mr. PRIME every autumn to make excursions in his own carriage through the more picturesque and attractive portions of the New England States; and this mode of travelling brings him into much more ntimate relations with the people than are possible in the rapidity of an ordinary ourney. He stops over every Sunday, of course attending church wherever he happens to be; and the facts he has observed afford occasion for these reflections:

"I confess that year after year I grow more and more o wondering why it is that New Enlgand country people to not seem to have much interest in their churches Whatever the denomination, we always find empty thurches on Sunday mornings and very small groups or sunday evenings. In villages of considerable size, with urrounding farms on which the population is not small t never happens that we find a morning congregation nore than forty or flity persons at church, and usually the number is much less than that, while at evening service it is almost invariable to find only ten or fifteen females and rarely more than two, three or four men. large towns the attendance is proportionately small. The ortion of the people of parts of northern New Eng land who are regular church goers would seem to be small, even smaller than in our large cities, if one can udge from personal observation during the past few

years on pleasant September and October Sundaya.
"It was not so once. I know country churches which nce gathered in on Sunday morning pretty much all the population around, and which are now full of emptiness. I see plenty of churches behind which are sheds for horses and wagons, which, by their extensive size. ndicate that they were once used by many families, and which are now not only empty, but roofless, shabby, and seless; nor could I learn that the building of other thurches had led away the congregations "Probably the same is true of parts of New York and

ther States." Mr. PRIME is a careful and conservative man, and does not give utterance to any casual impressions or exaggerated opinions. What he says is surely so; but if he had gone further and explained the causes for such a state of things, he would have laid the public under a greater obligation.

The decline of church going has been noticed in many quarters, and by observers who are far from sharing Mr. PRIME's orthodox and devout sentiments. It is, we believe, just as evident in the churches of this great city as it is in any rural village; and the essence of the fact everywhere, at least to the superficial observer, must be declared to be that the prevailing forms of Christianity are losing that hold upon the public mind which they once possessed. There are as many churches as ever, but there are fewer worshippers. There may be as many church members, but the earnestness and the piety of their faith have suffered an eclipse. There are as many sermons as ever, but they no longer warm the hearts of men as once they did with the fire of "righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come.

There is, then, a most notable decay of eligion among us. Men are ceasing to be Christians, and what are they becoming instead? Faith in CHRIST, in the Scriptures, and in retribution hereafter for deeds done in the body, no longer controls their actions. And what is taking the place of that faith And where is the fault? Why is it that the venerable bulwarks are broken down? Why is it that ideas of truth for which men have endured everything, even the loss of life, are thus thrown away and abandoned? Is it the fault of the intidel teachings of modern science? Is it the fault of the Church? Is it the fault of a clergy grown rich and luxurious, and, like the masses of their con gregations, unbelieving at heart? Is it because the true doctrine of the Saviour has been cast aside by the churches and the imaginations and devices of men substituted in its place? Or is it because some new and more practical application of that doctrine in the institutions and relations of society is necessary to reconcile the in consistencies and revive the ardor of the

ancient creeds? These are questions which merit the most serious, nay, the most solemn attention from all persons interested in the welfare of mankind and the safety of society. But unhave now presented are none of them new.

They are familiar to philosophers and to priests of every name; but as yet none of these have been able to give an answer fortunately the considerations which we

which has brought any comfort to the anxious minds of the religious, or silenced any extent the doubts of the scofling.

Will Mr. Talmage Make his Words Good A week ago to-day the Rev. T. Dr Wirr TALMAGE, a Brooklyn Presbyterian minister, made several remarkable assertions about certain other Brooklyn Presbyterian ministers. He made these assertions pub-

liely, standing on the platform of his church, before an immense congregation. He did not make them off-hand either, in the heat of extempore declamation. He had written them down in advance, and he read them out, one after the other, with emphasis and gusto.

Naturally these other Presbyterian ministers objected to being held up before the church and the community as envious, malicious, sneaking busybodies, cloaking their jealousy of a more popular brother preacher under a hypocritical pretence of conscientiousness, and stopping at no means, how ever vile, to annoy and injure him. They objected still more to the insinuation contained in the following sentences:

"Sometimes I have thought I would expose the moral rottenness of some of my pursuers, and show by return of assault how very thin wailed is the glass house of ome who are pelting me. Gentlemen thinking I ough to fight fire with fire have put in my hands materia enough to make a banquet for scandalmongers for the next year. But I have no spirit for such work. I never pursue anybody, nor do I mean to begin now." Accordingly they have publicly declared

over their signatures that the paper read by Talmage to his congregation last Sunday is a tissue of falsehoods; that every general and specific assertion contained in it is a lie, and that the insinuation above referred to is the worst and meanest lie of all. Here is the language in which they pay their respects to their brother in the Presbyterian ministry:

"The declaration of Dr. Talwage that he has in his possession proofs of the 'moral rottenness' of some of those whom he calls his persecutors is a slander of the most ignoble kind. The transparent pretence that he is unwilling to retaliate upon his so-called enemies, while at the same time be is openly accusing them of 'mora ottenness' and leaving it to evil imaginations to define and apply the accusation, is rendered the more revolting by the filmsy protest that in this course he is imitating the example and illustrating the spirit of Him who said: Father, torgive them; they know not what they do. Notwithstanding this affected similitude between his case and that of the Saviour, we shall hold him to hi responsibility as a false accuser."

With this language under his eyes, and under the eyes of the whole community, the Rev. Mr. TALMAGE tells the reporter that he is not going to tell what he knows about its authors unless he is forced to do so in self-defence!

Now, it is too late in the day for that sort of a course. The thing has gone too far. Either he is what his Presbyterian brethren say he is, or some of them are whited sepulchres, and it is his duty, as well as his interest, to expose them. If he really knows what he says he knows, the sooner he begins talking again at the point where he left off, the better for him, and for the Presbyterian Church.

One Consistent Democrat.

Senator Saulsbury did himself credit on Thursday by speaking and voting against a resolution, introduced by Senator WALLACE, directing the Sergeant-at-Arms to appoint three additional messengers, and assign them to the three committees which have Republican Chairmen. The Delaware Senator called the attention of his party associates to the fact that the Democratic Sergeant-at-Arms already had a force more than twice as large as that which had sufficed to do the work in 1860, and fully as large as his Republican predecessor had found adequate. Senator SAULSBURY's little appeal for economy and consistency fell on deaf ears. As soon as he sat down the Senate passed the resolution. Yet the other Democratic Senators would have done better to listen to Senator SAULSBURY. Little incidents of this sort, if often re peated, will not make it any easier to win a Democratic victory next fall.

The Sea Scrpent Alias Samuel J. Tilden. Ever since we can remember the curious nonster designated a sea serpent has been occasionally appearing and popularly dis-

Opinions about him vary now just as they have always varied, no more and no less. Many persons believe him a myth, while as many others are very sure he is a unique and horrid monster. It seems to us that we have hit upon the

true explanation of this deep mystery. The sea serpent is SAMUEL J. TILDEN, nothing ess and nothing more and nothing different The way we reason is this: Mr. TILDEN has been charged with being everything else that is bad, and the charges have been dis-

proved, or have fallen to the ground. Now he must be something horrid, and there is nothing else horrid left for him to be but the sea serpent. So we think he is the sea ser-

On the principle, apparently, that a public topic which has had a good run is worth a supplementary season, the Baptist ministers of New London last week discussed the question whether there is a Devil. It was a one-sided discussion—every speaker holding that there is 'a personal being answering to the name Satan." This evening a preacher in this city revives last winter's question of Hell-what and

Short crops and a rise in the price of breadstuffs are the reasons given for an increase in the German military estimates for 1880. Did it ever occur to the rulers of Germany that a year when breadstuffs are dear is a good year for reducing expenses? Must the immense German army always be provided for first, without any retrenchment, leaving other national affairs to get on as best they can?

Young as the session is, we have already propositions pending or impending for the creation of half a dozen Commissions to study up this, that, and the other. Yet the contributions of previous Commissions to the common stoc of knowledge have not been of such marked value as to commend this particular device for getting at facts to public favor. Indeed, many persons do not hesitate to pronounce the modern Commission a pretentious, costly humbug.

Now that Judge Vingin has taken the trouble to explain to them from the beach that Gov. GARCELOS and the Executive Council, being charged by the Constitution with the duty of examining the election returns, were the final judges of what the discharge of that duty necessarily required, the excited Maine Republicans may be expected to calm down.

The Rev. J. HYATT SMITH of Brooklyn was, for a few weeks last fall, a candidate for State Senator from the Fourth District, His experience in politics was brief but exciting, as he happened to get squeezed in between two experienced political athletes who were matched in that particular race, and he evidently got enough of it, for before election day he withdrew. Now he has we liten a lecture about it.

The Fighting in Afghanistan. LONDON, Dec. 13.-The Daily News, in its second edition this afternoon, publishes a despatch from Cabul, dated Friday evening, which says. "Gen MacWHAT IS GOING ON IN EUROPE.

According to the latest advices from Paris the Ministry does not appear to have gained nuch strength from the recent vote of confidence in the Chamber of Deputies. The Presidents of the three groups into which the Left of the Senate is divided have waited upon M. Naddington, the Premier, and insisted upon the necessity of a more vigorous policy in regard to the loyalty of the public functionarie and the dismissal of all those of reactionary sympathies and affiliations. The consequence of their dissatisfied feeling is likely to be the retirement of Waddington as soon as the present session of the Chambers is ended and the budget has been voted. Should it prove necessary to accept the Premier's resignation the choice of a successor will probably be difficult. M. Gambetta, to whom the office is likely to be offered, has shown himself unwilling to foreshadow his future course, and has abs lutely declined to expound his policy upon the leading questions of the day. Thus, when recently pressed to make public his views on the advisability of voting a plenary amnesty, he was dumb. This refusal to pledge his future has weakened his influence with the public Besides, he has expressed unwillingness to accept the Premiership, and it is almost certain that the President will be obliged, should M. Waddington retire, to look elsewhere for the new head of the Cabinet.

Upon one point, however, Gambetta expressed his views distinctly enough to a reporter who interviewed him the other day. He is in favor of raising the standard of female education and holds that without the enlightenment of women the republic is an impossibility. In England a similar movement seems to have se in; at least if one may judge from the late elections to the London School Board. The four le dies who had seats on the late Board were all redlected, and were reenforced by five others. This will no doubt tend to attract more atten tion to the question of the education of women in England.

In the death of Mr. Roebuck the British Par liament has lost one of its best-known figures. He was one of the class of able men who, be ginning life thoroughly imbued with radical principles, gradually become more and more conservative in their ideas. Early in life Mr. Roebuck was a prominent member of the Bentham its school, and was one of the party of dis inguished men who found an outlet for their utilitarian opinions in the columns of the Westninster Review. Among the contributors to that periodical were Charles Austin. John Stuart Mill, Macaulay, Grote, and many others. with whom Roebuck was on the closest terms of intimacy. After his election to represent the city of Bath in Parliament, he came forward as the champion of what is now called "Jingolam and his voice was always raised in praise of England, which he believed to be the greater country in the world, and whose form of government he thought every other country ough o imitate. On one well-known occasion, advocating a spirited foreign policy, he told his nearers that he was, and always would be, their careful watch dog, and gave himself, or he spot, the sobriquet of "Tear 'em." In his last years Mr. Roebuck always sat upon the opposition benches, no matter which party might be in power. But he usually voted with the Conservatives, especially on matters of foreign policy. Early in life he spent some years in Canada, and was ever afterward one of the stanchest supporters of the rights of that col

ony against imperial aggression. The influence of M. Emile Zola's school o realistic writing is beginning to make itself felt outside the ring of his immediate disciples. An anonymous Russian author is engaged upon a novel, the first part of which has already appeared in the Messager de l'Europe, evidently based upon two of Zola's later works. This new novel bears the title of "Barbe Oulmine, and relates the story of a young woman, who marrying from motives of gratitude, discovers too late that she does not and cannot love he husband. The interest of the story centres in her endeavors to improve the mind of a half idiotic cousin, who lives in her house. The attempt to instruct his dormant faculties leads to the development in him of a passionate love for his fair teacher, the ultimate consequences of which are not reached in the chapters already published. This semi-idiot is a close copy of the idiot sister of the Abbé Mouret and the realistic details and somewhat wearisome descriptions of M. Zola's works are accurately reproduced. One scene, which reminds the reader of Fielding of Joseph Andrews's temptaions, represents the idiot cousin, who is endowed with marvellous physical beauty, as the object of a reckless passion on the part of a docertain occurrences in the first romance of the Rougon-Macquart series. It is to be regretted that Russian novelists, who have of late shows such originality and productiveness, should adopt the style and tenets of the school of M.

Lord Beaconsfield's remark at the Guildhall banquet, that one of the greatest of the Romans had described his successful policy as "Imperium et Libertas," has led to an exciting controversy not only in England but even throughout Europe. A leading Berlin newspaper has thought it worth while to interview the distinguished historian, Mommsen, upon the origin of the phrase. It appears that Tacitus recorded the fact that the Emperor Nerva had mingled two principles of government which before his time had been considered incongruous, namely, principatum et libertatem." This was misquoted by Lord Bacon, who was in his turn misquoted by Clarendon in his history, from which the English Premier borrowed his watchword. So. that, as an English scholar remarks, Lord Beaconsfield's "greatest of the Romans" was only a man in buckram.

The King of Sweden has also been attracting attention by his literary performances. It is well known that he is a writer of ballads and sonnets which have been very favorably received by his subjects. He is also a constant contributor to a leading review which appears twice a month in his capital. In the pages of this review the King lately wrote a severe criticism upon a new play by Bjornstern, the celebrated Swedish dramatic author, who was so infuriated that he demanded a personal apology or satisfaction on the field of honor. As Kings are not accustomed to either of these proceedings, the royal author instructed the State Prosecutor to proceed against Bjornstern for high treason, and the play writer is now in Vienna thinking over the unfairness of royal

Kossuth seems to be in earnest about the pub lication of his memoirs. In any case, his preface to them has already been published by the Hungarian newspapers. Alluding to his constant wanderings in exile, he exclaims:

Statt wanderings in exile, he exclaims:

Talk of rest for a man who has no inger a fatheriand!
As if adam had any rest when he saw the doors of Paradise closed after him for his having tasted of the fruit which gave him the knowledge of good and exil. I, too, but a closed artist of the fruit is learned what good and exil if, too, but a condition of the father of t

Madame Ristori, the famous tragic actress was lately within an acr of being the victim of a fearful railroad accident in Sweden. She had chartered a special train to convey her company from Stockholm to Gothenbourg. went well until, of a sudden, as the train was approaching a river, the passengers were vio lently thrown from their seats and more or less injured. A drawbridge over which the train was about to pass had not been properly closed, and the engineer perceived the mistake only just in time to save the whole train from being precipitated into the river. Ristori, or, to give her proper title, the Marchioness del Grillo, is now fifty-night years old, and has been on the stage more years than it is pleasant to call to mind. A Berlin critic says that her representation of Medea in 1879 is an exact reproduction of her performance in 1856.

The observatory which has been for some

BUNBEAME

time in process of construction on Etns is now

seem almost to touch its foot. This illusion is

well known to Alpine tourists. As brigandage

is almost unknown in this part of the country,

it is probable that the more energetic tourists

of the future will make it one of their favorite

Every one who has visited Lucerne and as

cended the Rigi must remember the pretty little village of Vitznau, from which the train to

he Rigi-Kulm starts. A short time ago the in

habitants of the small hamlet which lies above

Vitznau were awakened from their sleep by a sound as of an earthquake. Rushing from their

houses they found that the stream which flows

through the gorge was carrying along stones

trees and thick mud. Assistance was at once

sent from Lucerne and Berne, and the danger

was averted. But although no lives were lost,

much damage was done to property, and down

to the very borders of the lake there is a thick

deposit of mud, so deep that in one place

An accident which happened to Sir Rober

Carden, one of the Aldermen of the city of Lon-

don, has drawn a good deal of attention to the

reckless driving of cabs in London streets. Six

Robert, who is a very old man, was crossing a

rather crowded street in the city, when he was

knocked down by the shaft of a hansom, and

would have been trampled by the horse or crushed by the wheel had he not been quickly

friving at the rate of four miles an hour, and

the asphalt on which the accident occurred

was in a very slippery condition. This, the de-

ence urged, rendered it difficult for the driver

to pull up, and it was suggested that Sir Robert

was so engrossed in his thoughts that he did

not hear the warning shout of the driver. The

did not take this view of the case, but inflicted

Lord Mayor, before whom the case was tried,

fine of twenty shillings and costs, with an en-

forsement upon the cabman's license. He also

dorsement upon the cauman's house, he also remarked that drivers were too much in the habit of considering the streets as their exclu-sive domain, in which foot passengers had no rights that they were bound to respect. It is, however, difficult to suggest any method by which foot passengers can safely cross a crowd-ed street in London. Tunnels and bridges seem to be equally out of the question. N. L. T.

The Great Swindles in the Post Office D

From the New York Time

office Department is conducted, the following case

Route No. 40,101 extends from Prescott, Arizons,

Santa Fe, New Mexico, a distance of 462 miles. It was let at the regular March letting, in 1878, to G. L. Me-Donough, for \$13,313. Service was to be performed

three times a week, the schedule time for each trip being 150 hours, or an average rate of three miles an hour. On

oct 3, 1878, three months after the contract was award

d, the service was increased to seven trips per week

uently the rate of speed was increased from three to

ive miles an hour, and for this \$43,486 additional was al

lowed, swelling the total compensation to \$74,550, Boon after this increase was made, McDonough, who

vas a " straw" man, failed, and his bondsmen, Messrs.

Kirk and Gleason, came forward and offered to continue

the service upon the terms existing at the time of McDon-ough's faiture. The Second Assistant Postmaster-General, for some reason which that officer can alone explain,

ejected the offer of Kirk and Gleason, and reduced the

ervice on the route to what it was when originally let

the sureties, against the ruling of the department, in

which he gave notice that if sued upon the bond of the failing contractor he would defend the suit upon the ground that he had been illegally deprived of his rights

by the ruling in question. The route was then let to

ohn A. Walsh, formerly of New Orleans, at \$18,500 ne

annum for the remainder of the term for which the orginal contract was made. This was an illegal action

because the law forbids the letting of a route under the circumstances described for a longer period than one

year, without again advertising.
It is a singular fact that, as soon as Walsh was given
the route, a rate of speed was established which was not
deemed necessary when Kirk and dieason offered to

perform the service, and the compensation was increase

by the addition of \$39,775 to the sum refused by Mc Donough's sureties. Then four additional trips a week

were ordered, and again the compensation was increased

by the addition of \$78,700, thus making Waish's total

compensation \$130,975 a year, being \$118,475 per annum in excess of the sum at which he was originally given the

Kirk and Gleason pleaded to continue the work at the

Wages and Household Expenses.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Allow

a poor man to reply to John's "Question of Household Economy." I have seven children, and their mother to support on the enormous pay from the United States Gov-

ernment of \$2 per day. Of course mine persons can

not live in two rooms, and rent is too high down town. I rent a floor up town, and pay \$20. I paid last month for

bread, \$5; milk, \$4; sugar, \$3; coffee, \$2; light, \$2; pots

bread, \$5; milk, \$4; sugar, \$3; coffee, \$2; light, \$2; potations, \$3; soan, starch, and soda, \$2; coal, \$4; wood, \$1; car lare, \$2.40. This makes \$48.40. This month I received \$50; in order to get clothes, meat, doctor, medicine, and other necessities, I have to borrow money of my friends and run in debt. Yet this great financier, John Sherman, who pays us, expects to be elected President. Let me tell the de facto Secretary of the Treasury to either discharge all the \$2 per day men in the customs service and hire the poor devils who are now starving, or else pay the men at least living wares. We did get paul fortly cents per hour, but pets had to be provided for a sheet and the working men. I believe many a convict lives better linear than the wives and children or the working men. (hone-than the wives and children or the working men. (hone-than the wives and children or the work tor John Sherman tor Ellares.) Who are forced to work tor John Sherman to the start least say, by the start of \$100 men who are in the same position.

Two Dollars a Day.

To the Editor of The Sun—Sir: I have noticed a letter signed "James" stating that he can were hone-to-tell the signed "James" stating that he can were hone-to-tell the signed "James" stating that he can were hone-to-tell the signed "James" stating that he can were hone-to-tell the signed "James" stating that he can were hone-to-tell the signed "James" stating that he can were hone-to-tell the signed "James" stating that he can were hone-to-tell the signed "James" stating that he can were hone-to-tell the signed "James" stating that he can were hone-to-tell the signed "James" stating that he can were hone-to-tell the signed "James" stating that he can were hone-to-tell the signed "James" stating that he can were hone-to-tell the signed "James" stating that he can were hone-to-tell the signed "James" stating that he can were hone-to-tell the signed "James" stating that he can were hone-to-tell the signed "James" stating that he can were hone-to-tell the signed stating t

Two Dollars a Day.

To the Editor of the Sus—Sir: I have noticed a letter signed "James," stating that he can keep house on Elo per week. Now, will "James" please give us the items of a week scapenees, as this is a subject in which many besides myself are interested.

Thomas.

How to Keep the Street Cars Out of Broad-

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN - Sir: Make

the stages two feet wider, and bend the axies down so as to bring the floor of the stage 12 or 14 inches from the

to bring the floor of the stage 12 or 14 inches from the street. Make them long enough to seat confortably fer persons on each side, and make the ceiling of the stage seven feet high, this would save the stove-pipe hats, and the extra width would save the toes from being stepped upon. The driver's seat would be much lower and long enough to seat three anothers besides inteself. Stage thus constructed would be easy to enter and easy to leave the second of the driver's seat would be easy to enter and easy to leave they would at once become fashionable, and resilize a fortune for the owners.

A Church Incident.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir. St. Thom

as's Church is famous for the excellence of its music, and, with hundreds of others. I occasionally go there to hear

it. But what I saw last Sunday alarms me, for my i ability to dress up to the standard of the regular stendants of this church makes me shrink from beinnade considenous. I saw the sexton beckon to a lad who was on cruches to follow him. Then he made parasite up the whole length of one size, around the from of the main hold of seats and part way down the cent asile to a pew passing many a weak.

What is the Fact in this Case !

An Irish Temperance Brink.

From the London World.

A New Heligious Sect in Texas.

place, which he afterward filled with able bodie

stract, and nearly twice as large as the sum

ume of McDonough's failure.

and \$17,750 was added to the compensation.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—In further illustration f the manner in which the star service of the Post

dragged out by a policeman. The cabu

chapel is twenty feet below the surface.

haunts.

finished, and it remains only to mount the large telescope. The site of the observatory is on the -A Chinese boy in Pekin has recited the hole of the New Testament in his native lancuage.

—There are 3,121 Congregationalists in Neplateau known as the Piano del Lago, from whole of the New Tests which the cone of the volcano rises. Close by are the Casa degl'Inglest, a small inn fo

brasks, 206 of whom have been added within the past twelve months. The largest church is at Omaha, and counts a membership of 204. tourists ascending the mountain, and the ruins

of an old Roman house. Attached to the ob--The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, in servatory is a building which will serve as an opinion on a suitarising out of a church debt, said,
"Corporations, like individuals, must do without conventences when they have not the money to pay for them."

—The "Waste Not" Society is composed a shelter for travellers. The view from this point is one of unsurpassed beauty and of enormous extent. Round the sides of the of Sunday school children at Brighton, England. Its members saved in tweive months about \$125 worth of refuse paper, and sold it for the benefit of two little girls. mountain stretch away the Adriatic and the Mediterranean, and Malta, Calabria, and Lipari

who were thus supported at the Orphanage.

—Guildhall Library, in London, is not to be opened on Sunday siternoons. The vote of the Court of Common Council, which decided this, was 10 to 32. The London Tose says that the British public want ne change in the existing Sunday laws and observances.

-King Mtesa at first favored the missions aries who went to Nianza to try to convert the benighted Central Africans. He has now become so hostile that the lives of the three missionaries in his dominions are considered in great danger. He has accused these unfortunate men of treachery, and it is possible that he may yet decide to chop their heads off. -A leading contributor to the Christian

Intelligencer failed to see the point of a joke in one of the secular papers, and therefore concluded that the man who wrote the joke meant something very wicked, and very antagonistic to the Christian religion. There, upon he opened his battery on the maker of the joke. and very seriously discussed the anormity the brethren should be furnished with printed explanations of all the jokes they read. ...The most lively and popular subject for

discussion in ministerial clubs and associations is the stealing of sermons. A wonderful amount of light has been shed on this subject within the past few weeks, and it would appear from the confessions of some of the brethren that original sermons are rare things. The brothren who engage in the debates do not always make these confessions for themselves, but rather in behalf of other brethren who have been caught.

-The religious papers which had become excited over Brother Eggleston's "play," which was an nounced to be performed in Sunday schools or for their benefit, may now calm their fears. The much-dreaded thing has appeared, and proves to be only a pleasant little burlesque scheme for illustrating some of the most note-worthy works of "Mother Goose" "Mary's little lamb?" lugged in by the ears, sithough it was not written by Mrs. Goose, but by a later author. There is nothing at all -If eight hundred dollars can be sent to

the mission of the Reformed Church at Tokio, Japan, a nice new chapel can be erected. There is said to be great eed for such a building. The Rev. G. F. Verbeck D. D., who was for a number of years in the service of the Japanese Government, now gives his time entirely to missionary work, with Tokio as his headquarters. Althe services are held in a private house. Many stran-gers, visiting Tokio, would worship with this church were the desired building erected. hough the church there numbers about sixty memb -A Congregational minister in London

wants to see the devil converted. To this end he has issued a pamphlet to his reliow ministers, asking them to pray for the devil's conversion. It is not yet known exactly how many brethren will thus engage in prayer, or what they will do with the devil when they get him converted. The devil has always been an unmanageable sort of fellow, and even when he takes a front seating our best churches, it is with the hope of doing mischief. His conversion may be set down as one of the toughest missionary undertakings ever contemplated.

-Four hundred and seventy shopkeepers of Zurich, Switzerland, have signed a petition to the City Council, asking that all trade on Sunday may be of ficially stopped. They desire that butchers and bakers may transact business, but that all other stores and shops may be closed. As long as some of the stores are kept open, all must continue business, or else suffer by competition. The petition has been referred by the Council to the Police Board. The shopkeepers of Geneva have also presented to their Council a similar petition, with hopeful prospect of carrying their measure th

-St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, is one of the most fashionable and frequenced of all the High Church sanctuaries. The struggle in regard ringing of its chime of bells gave it world-wide Its organist and choirmaster has now brought out at a Philadelphia theatre his new comic opera. The audi ence on the opening night was largely composed of the people of St. Mark's, who are proud of their organists work. This is in marked contrast with the action of the First Baptist Church in the same city, which turned ou one of its choir singers for having made an engagement to sing in "Pinafore" on week day evenings.

-A religious paper reports a minister as having thus delivered himself in public prayer: "We pray thee not, O Lord, for those only who are providenially prevented from being with us, but for those who have stayed away because of this shower, which would not have kept them from business or a kettle-drum." This was a very irreverent thing for the minister to do. to pray at people, and thus to give them thrusts which he would hardly dare to hurl at them in a sermon, was not only sensational, but impolite. People who are thus prayed at are not likely to be led out of the error of their way by such treatment. And if the prayer was meant for a loke, it was an exceedingly poor one. A man who cannot pray in any better style than this should be content with reciting the Lord's Prayer, without any additions from his own fancy.

-The Sunday school lesson of to-day affords scope for the most brilliant imagination of the teacher, as well as for his best teaching ability in conveying instruction of deeply religious value. It is in Revelations, axi. 21-27, and axii., 1-3, its subject being "The Heavenly City." The vivid imagery of the vision of St. John presents heaven as a city of magnificence and giory, bright with unfading light from the throne of God, and rich with every conceivable element of beauty. The literal facts which are declared about the heavenly city are to some extent difficult to explain. It is enough for us to know that the city is represented as the place where God reigns, and where his redeemed ones are eternally happy. It is to be free from defliement, from darkness, and from death. No enemies are to gain ad-mission within its gates. The river of life and the tree of life are mentioned as conspicuous elements of the glory of the city and of the happiness of its inmates. These may be accepted as embleme of eternal life, freshness, health, and joy. Above all, the presence of Gol is the crowning glory of heaven, and the chief source of please ure to all who are to dwell there. Some very literal people trouble themselves with attempts to measure heaven, and to compute the number of the releemed who can find room there. All such endeavors are alike useless and contrary to the spirit of the Scriptures There is enough solid instruction and religious confers to be obtained from such a passage as this without engage ing in this class of profitless speculations.

-After over a year of persistent effort, poor woman in a fashionable Brooklyn church succeeded last Sunday in getting herself supplied with a copy of the hymn book in use among the congregation. Being too poor to buy one, she had asked in various quarters, but had always been met by the answer that there was no fund to supply hymn books to the needy, and that all people attending the church were expected to buy hyan books for themselves. She applied without success to various individuals in the church for the donation of a book or of the money with which to buy one. Finally, she made application to the Board of Deacons, who have at last taken official action in her case. By a special tippensation she is allowed to take to her pew one of the
hymn books which belong in the fecture room, and
which has the legend of its belonging git in large elters
on its side. The rest of the poor people who sit in the gallery are unprovided with hymn books, except as they
happen to bring their own. The took is brown and conit. happen to bring their own. The book is heavy and cost, being, as most of the church hymn books are, more of a cyclopedia of hymnology than a handy manual of sacred song. In another rashionable Brooklyn church the spectacle was last Sunday observed of all the gallery people except those in three or four pows being unprovided with hymn books. If the churches must have such costs books as to make the possession of them the priviles. only of the wealthy, the hymns for each Sunday ought to be printed on sheets of paper, like theatre programmes, for distribution among the humbler worshippers.

-Some weeks ago a resolution was passed TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Suppose fixing the Tabernacle as the place for the January II ou go hunting and get a squirrel up a tree, he runs ing of the Brooklyn Presbytery. It was done by a strictly around the tree, and you follow him around so as to get a shot at him. The question is this. Do you or do you not go around the squirrel! Some say you do, and some say not. I you will answer this in your valuable paper, you will greatly obligs some of your "Sussessings."

MASLETIS, Mich., Dec. 10. party vote, the Taimage party being fired of inectals at Brother Crosby's church, where they had been subjected to so much nagging. The proposition was to go to some other church, and it so happened that no other church than the Tabernaule was offered, the people of the other churches not carring to open their doors to such a quar-relsome band of brethren as the Presbytery has now bereasons band of brethren as the Presbytery has now se-come. The ann Talmageirs were missin characteristic this action, for they could not enjoy a home beings in the shurch of a man whem they had grant to prove short of faisehood and decrit. They were determined in semi-way to get out of having to go there. There was no say to avoid it except by calling a special method of Presbytery to reconsider the action and atomic semi-other place of meeting. The calling of a special method of Presbytery to reconsider the action and atomic semi-other place of meeting. The calling of a special method of Presbytery to reconsider the action and atomic semi-I heard this inimitable order given by a well-known litish member at the kildare that the other day. Waither, get me a large glass of pure earing waither." The memon with which the words, "pure appring waither "were enunciated would have delighted the cars, of Sir Wirrd Lawson; but just as the waiter had get well away to the other extremity of the room, this addendam was made." And, waither, just put two glasses of Iriah whiskey in it." Rough Opinions about a New York Orator From the Bultimore Guestle.

The Washington Post calls Stewart L. Woodford an "educated ase." The Winnington N C Surveying demand on the Miderator for the call of the member Press.

This also plain and uncrommented truth. There is no before y and it each example to each example the states clerk is competing to the such example the states clerk is competed to each example the states of the manning of Woodford. He is a Proshytery is an important after, and is not received beard of except in case of very increasing the ministers and two cheers are object to make in a first demand on the Moderator for the call of the meeting and circular letter to the time of holding the morning. All this has been gone through, with in order that the bretteren who do not like Taimage may avoid the necessity of From the Duline Herald.

The Sanctification ists are gathering here again, and it is whispered that they are holding dark interest meetings. This tack was brought to high by Mark Wilsam Buchanan, a prominent and respectable farmer of Savarra County, coming to Unseity in search of the wife, she flaving preceded, with the swowed purpose of loining the count. He is an old man, and she is represented as being a rather young woman. having to enjoy the horitality of his church. The fun of the thing, too, is that the Tabernacie forks had planned a resumption of the days of pleasant followship and Presbyterial good cheer by arranging to give the Freebiers a big dinner. Should the place of meeting be changed, at probably will, the dinner will have to be counted out.